

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/878,325	KITAHARA, TSUYOSHI
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Ly T TRAN	2853

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--*

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 310104.

2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8,10-13 and 16-27.

3. The drawings filed on 04 October 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.

4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of the:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |



Stephen D. Meier
Primary Examiner

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 7,8 22 and 24-26 are directed to an allowable product. Claims 7, 8, 22 and 24-26 are previously withdrawn from consideration as a result of a restriction requirement, claims 7, 8, 22 and 24-26 are now subject to being rejoined.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Cameron Beddard on 4/1/04.

In claims:

- Please cancel claims 9, 14 and 15.
- Claim 16: line 2; please delete "9," "14 and 15" and insert "and" before "13"
- Claim 17: line 1; please delete "9," and in line 2; please delete "14 and 15" and insert "and" before "13"
- Claim 18: line 2; please delete "9," "14 and 15" and insert "and" before "13"

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-8, 10-13 and 16-27 are allowed.

- The primary reason for the allowance of claims 1-4, 19-26 and 16-18/1 is the inclusion of a piezoelectric vibrator unit comprising a magnitude of electric fields applied between the common and segment internal electrode layers to the piezoelectric layers is non-uniform to cancel a bending moment caused during contraction of the piezoelectric vibrator. It is this step found in each of the claims, as it is claimed in the combination, that has not been found, taught, or suggested by the prior art of record which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.
- The primary reason for the allowance of claims 5-8, 10-12 and 16-18/5,10 is the inclusion of a piezoelectric vibrator unit comprising the piezoelectric layers are non-uniform in thickness. It is this step found in each of the claims, as it is claimed in the combination, that has not been found, taught, or suggested by the prior art of record which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.
- The primary reason for the allowance of claims 13, 27 and 16-18/13 is the inclusion of a piezoelectric vibrator unit comprising an electric field applied portion of at least one of the piezoelectric layers are laminated; away from the surface fixed to the fixing member, is shorter than other electric field applied portions of other piezoelectric layers that are located between at least one piezoelectric layer and the first surface. It is this step found in each of the claims, as it is claimed in the combination, that has not been found, taught, or suggested by the prior art of record which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Ly T. Tran whose telephone number is (703)-308-0752. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (7:30-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Meier can be reached on (703) 308-4896. The fax numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular communications and (703) 308-7724 for After Final communications.

Any inquire of a nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.


April 1, 2004


Stephen D. Meier
Primary Examiner